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MAR 01 1990

American Chemical Services

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American Chemical Services is listed on the NPL update as a group 7 site. This site has a Hazard Ranking Score of 34.98. The site is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Griffith, Indiana in the center of Section 2, Township 35 North, Range 9 West, Lake County, Indiana. A wetland is located 2,000 feet to the northeast of this site and Turkey Creek is approximately one mile to the southeast.

The primary business of American Chemical Services from 1955 to 1968 was solvent reclamation and some custom blending of chemical. Unrecoverable still bottoms were stored temporally in a lagoon and later deposited in their landfill. The landfill was also used to dispose of trash and unreclaimable solidified materials. ACS operated two incinerators from 1968 to 1978 until they were closed by the ISDH.

Approximately two million gallons of chemicals were incinerated per year as well as still bottoms generated by the solvent reclamation program. The bottom ash that was generated by this incinerator was disposed in the landfill from 1969 to 1978. During the 1970's, ACS began other processing activities which included the production (1972) of "Amotone", a gasoline additive and "Epoxol", a plasticizer.

ACS had two major disposal areas on site until 1975 when they voluntarily stopped using them. The lagoon which acted as a temporary storage area, is located in the northwest area of the plant. The lagoon drained into a wetland area to the northwest, which drains into Turkey Run Creek. The landfill that was located in the area was closed in 1975 and capped with clay. Two settling ponds are also located within this site.

The shallow aquifer beneath the site is contaminated with pentacholoraphenol, benzene, toluene, vinyl chloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and other orgainic compounds. Fortunately, the majority of the 10,000 people residing within three miles of the site use the lower aquifer for drinking purposes. The aquifers are separated by a supposedly continous 15 to 25 foot thick layer of silty clay till. The site is mantled by a medium to coarse silty

sand. The static water table in the unconfined aquifer is shallow ranging from 3 to 23 feet in depth. The clay till, which separates the contaminated surface aquifer from the deeper drinking water aquifer has a relatively low hydraulic conductivity of 3.3 x10^{-7} cm/sec. Slow groundwater leakage between the two water bearing units is possible, even considering this relatively low permeability fo the clay till layer. The groundwater flow direction is primarily northwestardly along the upper sandclay till contact.

Present Status

A Workplan Memorandum, discussing the Scope of Work to be undertaken at the site, has been signed off on already. U.S. EPA's contractor is presently putting the Workplan together and should be completed by the middle of June if everything proceeds as scheduled. Most of the Workplan has already been delayed by two weeks because of the bad wether that occurred in January of 1985. James Tarpo, president of ACS, requested that U.S. EPA negotiate with him first, regarding a Workplan concerning a RI/FS, before any other generators were contacted. This was to protect his business. Mr. Tarpo hasn't yet to date set up an appointment to negotiate a RI/FS with U.S. EPA. Instead, U.S. EPA will probably have to send out notice letters to all possibly responsible parties (generators) involved. The Technical Assistance Team (TAT) conducted a site assessment of ACS on November 29, 1984, and found the site not to be regarded as an emergency removal situation at this time. Further contacts with the State of Indiana regarding this site shall still be going on for an indefinite time period.

I'm hopeful, after negotiations begin to commence and/or after the Workplan is completed, a RI/FS will proceed as soon as possible.

cc: Russell E. Diefenbach
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